

Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 20 has been amended as follows:

Figure 1 FIGS. 1A-1F Inhibition of prostaglandin $F_{2\alpha}$ ($PGF_{2\alpha}$)-induced spreading response by IFN- γ . Myocytes were pre-incubated with saline vehicle or IFN- γ (500U/ml) on day of isolation. A second addition of vehicle or IFN- γ was performed 24h after isolation, along with the addition of either vehicle or $PGF_{2\alpha}$ (10^{-7} M). After an additional 72 h incubation, cells were fixed in glutaraldehyde, stained with eosin Y and viewed by fluorescent microscopy. **A, B, C** A, B, C Cardiac myocytes after 4 days in culture: control, $PGF_{2\alpha}$, and $PGF_{2\alpha}$ +IFN- γ , respectively. **D, E, F** D, E, F Histograms showing maximum breadth of rod shaped cardiac myocytes versus percent frequency of breadth occurrence. The maximum breadth of rod-shaped cells was determined by fluorescence microscopy and imaging software. At least 200 rod shaped cells from a single experiment were examined by group. IFN- γ alone had no observable effect on the morphology of the cells. $P < 0.001$ for all group comparisons.

The paragraph starting at page 6, line 30 has been amended as follows:

Figure 2 FIGS. 2A-2E Dose responsive inhibition of $PGF_{2\alpha}$ -induced response by IFN- γ (500-25 U/ml). Myocytes were pre-incubated with saline vehicle or IFN- γ on day of isolation. A second amount of IFN- γ was added 24 hr after isolation, along with the addition of either vehicle or $PGF_{2\alpha}$ (10^{-7} M). After an additional 72 h incubation, cells were fixed in glutaraldehyde, stained with eosin Y and viewed under fluorescence. Quantitation of myocyte morphology: **A** A control, **B** B $PGF_{2\alpha}$, **C** C $PGF_{2\alpha}$ +IFN- γ (25U/ml), **D** D $PGF_{2\alpha}$ +IFN- γ (100U/ml), **E** E $PGF_{2\alpha}$ +IFN- γ (500U/ml). Histograms showing maximum breadth of rod-shaped cardiac myocytes versus percent frequency of breadth occurrence. The maximum breadth of rod-shaped cells was determined by fluorescence microscopy and imaging software. At least 200 rod shaped cells from a single experiment were examined per group. IFN- γ alone had no observable effect on the morphology of these cells. $P < 0.001$ for all group comparisons.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 8 has been amended as follows:

Figure 3 FIGS. 3A-3F Inhibition of phenylephrine (PE)-induced spreading response by IFN- γ . Myocytes were pre-incubated with saline vehicle or IFN- γ (500 U/ml) on day of isolation. A second addition of vehicle or IFN- γ was performed 24h after isolation, along with the addition of either vehicle or PE (10^{-5} M). After an additional 72 h incubation, cells were fixed in glutaraldehyde, stained with eosin Y and viewed by fluorescence microscopy. ~~A, B, C~~ A, B, C Cardiac myocytes after 4 days in culture: control, PE, and PE+IFN- γ , respectively. D, E, F Histograms showing maximum breadth of rod shaped cardiac myocytes versus percent frequency of breadth occurrence. The maximum breadth of rod-shaped cells was determined by fluorescence microscopy and imaging software. At least 200 rod shaped cells from a single experiment were examined per group. IFN- γ alone had no observable effect on the morphology of these cells. $P < 0.001$ for all group comparisons.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 18 has been amended as follows:

Figure 4 FIGS. 4A-4C Effects of IFN- γ on cardiac hypertrophy induced by fluprostenol in rats. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. The number in ~~parentheses~~ parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. * $P < 0.05$, * $P < 0.01$, compared to the vehicle group. # $P < 0.05$, ## $P < 0.01$, compared to the Flup group. Flup: fluprostenol; IFN: IFN- γ ; HW: heart weight; BW: body weight; VW: ventricular weight; LVW: left ventricular weight.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 23 has been amended as follows:

Figure 5 FIGS. 5A-5B Effects of Flup and/or IFN on MAP and HR. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. * $P < 0.05$, compared to the vehicle group. # $P < 0.05$, compared to the Flup group. + $P < 0.05$, compared to the Flup+IFN group. Flup: ~~fluprostenol~~ fluprostenol; IFN: IFN- γ ; MAP: mean arterial pressure; HR: heart rate.

Figure-6 FIGS. 6A-6D Bargraphs showing the effect of fluprostenol (FLUP) and IFN- γ on: **A** A Skeletal activ (SKA); **B** B Sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase (SRCA); **C** C Collagen I (COL I); **D** D Artrial natriuretic factor (ANF) expression. Expression levels are normalized to glyceraldehydes-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) message. VEH is vehicle.. There were 7 animals per group and the data are presented as the mean \pm SEM. $P < 0.05$ vs VEH group.

Figure-7 FIGS. 7A-7C Effects of IFN- γ on heart weight, ventricular weight, and left ventricular weight in rats with pressure overload. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. $**P < 0.01$, compared to the sham group. $##P < 0.01$, compared to the Banded+vehicle group. Sham: sham-operated rats; Banded: aortic-banded rats; IFN: IFN- γ ; HW: heart weight; VW: ventricular weight; LVW: left ventricular weight.


Figure-8 FIGS. 8A-8C Effects of IFN- γ on the ratio of heart weight, ventricular weight, and left ventricular weight to body weight in rats with pressure overload. Data are presented as mean \pm SEM. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. $**P < 0.01$, compared to the sham group, $##P < 0.01$, compared to the Banded+vehicle group. Sham: sham-operated rats; Banded: aortic-banded rats; IFN: IFN- γ ; HW: heart weight; BW: body weight; VW: ventricular weight; LVW: left ventricular weight.

Figure-9 FIGS. 9A-9C Effect of IFN- γ on systolic arterial pressure, mean arterial pressure, and diastolic arterial pressure in rats with pressure overload. The number in parenthesis is the number of animals in each group. $**P < 0.01$, compared to the sham group. Sham: sham-operated rats; Banded: aortic-banded rats; IFN: IFN- γ ; SAP: systolic arterial pressure; MAP: mean arterial pressure; DAP: diastolic arterial pressure.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Attorney Docket No.: 39766-0068A2D1). Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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